

where one or more cysteine residues are replaced with a different amino acid residue(s) and optionally one or more amino acid residues are inserted into the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 are additionally removed and/or replaced with other amino acid residue(s) but still retaining the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:4.

Please add new claims 33-36 as follows:

--33(New). The composition of claim 29, comprising:
an effective amount of an interleukin-18 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;

a functional equivalent of said interleukin-18; and
a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.--

--34(New). The composition of claim 29, comprising:
an effective amount of a functional equivalent of said interleukin-18, and

a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.--

--35(New). The composition of claim 29, wherein said functional equivalent is capable of exerting osteoclastgenic inhibitory activity and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, where one or more cysteine residues are replaced with a different amino acid residue(s) and where one or more amino acid

residues are inserted into the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 are additionally removed and/or replaced with other amino acid residue(s) but still retaining the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:4.--

--36(New). The composition of claim 29, wherein said functional equivalent is capable of exerting osteoclastgenic inhibitory activity and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, where one or more cysteine residues are replaced with a different amino acid residue(s) without one or more amino acid residues being inserted into the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, and without one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 being additionally removed and/or replaced with other amino acid residue(s).--